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#### Exhibit A

#### UNITED STATES BANKRUPTCY COURT NORTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS (CHICAGO) EASTERN DIVISION

In re:	Chapter 11
TEC-AIR, INC.,	Case No. 17-32273 (JSB)
Debtor.	

# DECLARATION OF S. JASON TEELE IN SUPPORT OF THE DEBTOR'S APPLICATION FOR ENTRY OF AN ORDER AUTHORIZING THE EMPLOYMENT AND RETENTION OF CULLEN AND DYKMAN LLP AS COUNSEL TO THE DEBTOR EFFECTIVE AS OF THE PETITION DATE

- S. Jason Teele, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1476, declares:
- 1. I am a partner with the law firm of Cullen and Dykman LLP ("<u>Cullen and Dykman</u>"), which maintains offices in various locations including One Riverfront Plaza, Newark, New Jersey 07102. I am an attorney duly admitted to practice law in the State of New Jersey.
- 2. I submit this Declaration in support of the application (the "Application")<sup>1</sup> of Tec-Air, Inc., the above-captioned debtor and debtor in possession (the "Debtor"), for entry of an order pursuant to sections 327(a), 328 and 1107 of title 11 of the United States Code (the "Bankruptcy Code") and Rule 2014 of the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure (the "Bankruptcy Rules") authorizing the employment and retention of Cullen and Dykman LLP as counsel to the Debtor effective as of the Petition Date, and to provide the disclosures required under Bankruptcy Rules 2014(a) and 2016(b).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> Capitalized terms not otherwise defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Application.

#### **SERVICES TO BE PROVIDED**

- 3. Cullen and Dykman possesses the requisite experience in the handling of bankruptcy and reorganization proceedings, as well as general corporate, litigation and other related matters necessary to represent the Debtor in this Chapter 11 Case.
- 4. The professional services the Debtor anticipates Cullen and Dykman will render include, but are not limited to:
  - (a) providing the Debtor with advice and preparing all necessary documents regarding debt restructuring, bankruptcy and asset dispositions;
  - (b) taking all necessary actions to protect and preserve the Debtor's estate during the pendency of the Chapter 11 Case, including the prosecution of actions by the Debtor, the defense of actions commenced against the Debtor, negotiations concerning litigation in which the Debtor may be involved and objecting to claims filed against the estate;
  - (c) preparing on behalf of the Debtor, as a debtor-in-possession, all necessary motions, applications, answers, orders, reports and papers in connection with the administration of the Chapter 11 Case;
  - (d) counseling the Debtor with regard to its rights and obligations as a debtor-in-possession;
  - (e) appearing in Court to protect the interests of the Debtor; and
  - (f) performing all other legal services for the Debtor which may be necessary and proper in this Chapter 11 Case.

#### PROFESSIONAL COMPENSATION

- 5. The Debtor retained Cullen and Dykman in August 2017 to provide restructuring advice. The Debtor tendered to Cullen and Dykman a retainer in the amount of \$45,000.00, which was fully applied against fees incurred by Cullen and Dykman prior to the commencement of the Chapter 11 Case.
- 6. Subject to this Court's approval and in accordance with sections 330 and 331 of the Bankruptcy Code, the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure, the Local Rules of this Court,

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and such other procedures as may be fixed by order of this Court, Cullen and Dykman will seek compensation on an hourly basis, plus reimbursement of the actual and necessary expenses that Cullen and Dykman incurs, in accordance with the ordinary and customary rates which are in effect on the date the services are rendered. Cullen and Dykman's current hourly rates are as

follows:

Partners: \$375.00 - \$750.00

Associates: \$225.00 - \$385.00

Paralegals: \$95.00 - \$175.00

7. The charges for the attorneys and paralegals who will render services to the Debtor are based upon actual time charges on an hourly basis and upon the experience and expertise of the attorney or paralegal involved. The hourly rates set forth above are subject to periodic adjustments to reflect economic and other conditions.

- 8. The fee structure proposed is intended to fairly compensate Cullen and Dykman for the work of its attorneys and paralegals and to cover fixed and routine overhead expenses. It is Cullen and Dykman's policy to charge its clients in all areas of practice for all expenses incurred in connection with the client's case. The expenses charged to clients include, among other things, telephone charges, mail and express mail charges, special or hand delivery charges, document processing, photocopying charges (at the lower of the rate of twelve cents (\$0.12) per page or actual cost), travel expenses, and computerized research and transcription costs. Cullen and Dykman believes that it is appropriate to charge these expenses to the clients incurring them, rather than to increase its hourly rates and thereby spread the expenses among all clients.
- 9. No agreement or understanding exists between myself, Cullen and Dykman, or any other person for any division or sharing of compensation that is prohibited by statute.

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#### **DISINTERESTEDNESS OF PROFESSIONALS**

- 10. In connection with its proposed retention by the Debtor in the Chapter 11 Case, Cullen and Dykman took certain steps to determine whether it had any conflicts or other relationships that might cause it not to be disinterested or to hold or represent an interest adverse to the Debtors. Specifically, Cullen and Dykman obtained from the Debtor and/or its representatives the names of individuals and entities that may be parties in interest in the Chapter 11 Case (the "Parties in Interest"). A list of the Potential Parties in Interest is attached hereto as Schedule 1.
- 11. A review of Cullen and Dykman's conflict database reveals that Cullen and Dykman has previously represented and/or currently represents the entities listed on Schedule 2 hereto (or their affiliates), in matters wholly unrelated to the Debtor or the Chapter 11 Case. Cullen and Dykman does not anticipate that any conflicts of interest will arise in the Chapter 11 Case with respect to the parties listed on Schedule 2.
- 12. Except as disclosed herein, insofar as I have been able to ascertain, neither I, Cullen and Dykman, nor any partner, counsel, or associate thereof, have any connection with the Debtor, its creditors, or any other parties in interest, their respective attorneys and accountants, Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of Illinois, any person employed in the Office of the United States Trustee for the Northern District of Illinois, or any Bankruptcy Judge currently serving on the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois.
- 13. Despite the efforts described above to identify and disclose Cullen and Dykman's connections with the Debtor and various parties in interest in this case, as the Debtor has not yet completed its schedules of assets and liabilities and statement of financial affairs (collectively,

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"Statements and Schedules"), Cullen and Dykman is unable to state with certainty that every client representation or other connection has been disclosed. Should Cullen and Dykman discover additional information that requires disclosure after the Debtor's preparation of the Statements and Schedules, it will supplement these disclosures as appropriate.

- 14. Cullen and Dykman has in the past represented, currently represents, and may in the future represent entities that are claimants or interest-holders of the Debtor in matters wholly unrelated to the Debtor's Chapter 11 Case. Cullen and Dykman, which employs approximately 150 attorneys, has a large and diversified legal practice that encompasses the representation of many individuals, financial institutions and commercial entities. Some of those entities are or may consider themselves to be creditors or parties in interest in the Debtor's Chapter 11 Case or to otherwise have interests in these cases. If Cullen and Dykman has such clients, it would not represent those clients in any matter related to the Debtor.
- 15. Cullen and Dykman will continue to supplement these disclosures in the future as appropriate.
- 16. Cullen and Dykman will not represent any entity other than the Debtor in connection with the Chapter 11 Case.
- 17. To the best of my knowledge, after diligent inquiry, Cullen and Dykman is a "disinterested person" as that term is defined in section 101(14) of the Bankruptcy Code, as Cullen and Dykman, its partners, counsel and associates (a) are not creditors, equity security holders, or insiders of the Debtor; (b) are not and were not, within 2 years before the date of the filing of the Debtor's chapter 11 petition, a director, officer, or employee of the Debtor; and (c) do not represent or hold an interest adverse to the interests of the Debtor's estate with respect to the matters in which Cullen and Dykman is proposed to be employed.

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Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1746, I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Dated: November 8, 2017

<u>/s/ S. Jason Teele</u> S. Jason Teele

#### **Schedule 1**

### Tec-Air, Inc. Potential Parties in Interest

#### **Debtor**:

Tec-Air, Inc.

#### **Officers/Directors/Members**:

Robert J. McMurtry Jennifer L. McMurtry

#### **Restructuring Professionals of the Debtor**:

Cullen and Dykman LLP Three Twenty-One Capital Partners, LLC

#### **Secured Lenders**:

The Leaders Bank Byline Bank, as successor by merger to Ridgestone Bank

#### **Counsel to Secured Lenders:**

Scott & Kraus, LLC Chuhak & Tecson, P.C.

#### **Stalking Horse Bidder**:

Chatterjee Management Company

#### **Counsel to Stalking Horse Bidder**:

Meltzer, Purtill & Stelle LLC

#### **Unsecured Creditors**:

A. Schulman, Inc.
ABC Employment Holdings
Able Paper & Janitorial Supply
ACS Auxilliaries
Adventist Hindsdale
Adventist La Grange Hospital
AEC, Inc.
AFLAC

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Akerman LLP

Allied Benefit Systems, Inc.

Altrust Precision Tooling Co.

American Anesthesia

American Health Holding

Arburg, Inc.

Arora MD

Ashahi Kasei Plastics NA, Inc.

**Associated Radiologist** 

Benchmark Fasteners, Inc.

Best Messenger Service, Inc.

Best Metal

Best Transportation Service, Inc.

**Blades Machinery** 

Calidad en Servicios Industriales

Catching Fluidpower, Inc.

CD&R Components Inc.

Central Dupage Hospital

Chase Plastic Services Inc.

Chicago Metropolitan Fire Prev

Chicago Office Products Co.

Chicago Rehabilitation

Cideas

CLC Lubricants Co.

**CNA** 

**CNA** Insurance

Commercial Pallet, Inc.

Community Care Net

Community Hospital

Community Hospitals of IL

Conair/IPEG, Inc.

COTG

Crossmark Printing Inc.

D & D Enterprises, Inc.

Daiichi Jitsugyo (America) Inc.

Dayton Freight

Decatur Mold

Delta Industries Inc.

**Diversified Engineering Services** 

DME Company

Don Ulrich

Dynasty Mold Builders, Inc.

Eagle Mat & Floor Products

**Edward Eckart** 

**Entec Polymers** 

Euler Hermes Collections N. America

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Express Services Inc.

Fedex

Fedex Freight, Inc.

Fidelity Security Life Ins.

First Call Quality

First Call Temporary Services, Inc.

FPM Heat Treating

Franciscan Health

Franciscan Health Munster

Franciscan Healthcare Munster

Franciscan Physicians

Fre-Flo Distribution

Global Equipment Co., Inc.

GR Spring & Stamping Inc.

Grainger

Great Lakes Credit Union

Great Lakes Welding Supply

Guardian-Appleton

H Alan Jones D.O., Inc.

Hagerman & Company, Inc.

**Hines Industries** 

Hinsdale Office CS

IFM Efector, Inc.

Illinois Retina Assoc.

**Imaging Associates** 

**Impact Technology Solutions** 

Imprint Enterprises, Inc.

Indiana Department of Revenue

**Industrial Thermo Products** 

**IQMS** 

Janet Rivett

Jarava MD

Kirit Shah, MD

Komatsu Forklift of Chicago

Kopp Welding, Inc.

Lanxess

**Lanxess Corporation** 

LBC Owner LLC

Liaison Technologies

Little Co. of Mary Hospital

Loyola University Medical Center

M. Holland Company

MacNeal Hospital

Materials Engineering Inc.

Matis Inc.

Matsui

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McMaster-Carr Supply Co.

McShane's Business Products

Meany Inc. Electrical Con.

Melissa McKnight

Methodist Hospital Inc.

Metlife – Group Benefits

Midwest Moving and Storage

Midwest Pension & Profit

Midwest Pension Fund

MSC Industrial Supply

Mt. Sinai Hospital Medical Center

Munster High Booster Club

National Lift Truck

Neal Wolf & Associates

Nexeo Solutions, Inc.

**Nexus Employment Solutions** 

**MIPSCO** 

Nissan Trading Co

Nissan Trading Corp., Americas

Northstar Location Services LLC

Northwest Indiana Pathology

Northwestern Medical

Northwestern Memorial Hospital

O.R. Laser Technology, Inc.

Office Team

**Omni Plastics** 

On Time Messenger

P.J. Spring Co., Inc.

Packaging Corporation of America

Packaging Logic

Pain Control Associates

**Pathology Consultants** 

Paychex

**PCS** Company

Pirtek

Pitney Bowes Global Financial Serv.

Pitney Bowes Purchase Power

Plastic Profess Equipment, Inc.

Plastics Color Corp. of IL

Plastics Color Corp.

Plastics Color Corp. of NC

Priority Messenger Service

Pro Auto

**Progressive Components** 

Progressive Enterprises

Purcell Commercial Cleaning

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**Quadrant Magnetics** 

**Quest Diagnostics** 

Radici Plastics USA

Reed Machinery & Transportation

Richard Swin

Ricky McGear

Rikki Kay Swin

Ron's Staffing Services, Inc.

Rush University Medical Center

S-2 International LLC

**Schmit Prototypes** 

**Schwab Paper Products** 

SCSI Business Solutions, LLC

**SCSI LLC** 

Sedgwick Claims Mgmt Services

Selden Fox

Sepro America, LLC

Silver Cross Hospital

Simple Laboratories

Solvent Systems

South Suburban Hospital

**Southwest Airlines** 

Sreeram MD

St. Jude Medical Clinic

St. Vincent Hospital

**Stanley Spring** 

Steiner Electric

**Sterling Staffing** 

Stoner, Inc.

Stratosphere Quality LLC

Suburban Anesthesiologist

Superior Petroleum Products, Inc.

Supply Chain Services International

Sure-Cut E.D.M. Inc.

Surfacetex Corp.

Telar

Tennova Healthcare

The Breast Care Center

The Community Hospital

The Materials Group, LLC

The PIC Group, Inc.

Timothy J. Morrison OD

Toray Resin Company

UESCO Industries, Inc.

**UIC** Anesthesiology

**UIC Surgery** 

UL LLC

Uline

University of Illinois Hospital

**UPS** 

**UPS** Freight

**UPS** Logistics

**UPS Supply Chain Solutions** 

Vac Motion Inc.

Vactec LLC

Vantec World Transport (USA)

Vedder Price

Veritiv Operating Company

Village of Willow Springs

Voelker Litigation Group

Washington Penn Plastic Co.

Welch Packaging Group

Wells Fargo Equipment Finance

Wells Fargo Financial Leasing

Wilhelm Weber GmbH & Co. KG

Wipeco

Wittman Bottenfeld

Wuertz Law Office LLC

Yudo, Inc.

Yushin America

**ZMX** Transportation Services

**Zondor Creative** 

#### **Utilities**:

Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Town of Munster, IN

Waste Management

Comcast Business

**AT&T Mobility** 

Chicago Electric

ComEd

**Groot Industries** 

Hicksgas, LLC

H-O-H Water Technology, Inc.

Liberty Propane

#### **Contract/Lease Counterparties**:

**Comcast Business** 

Northern Indiana Public Service Company

Indiana Economic Development Corporation

**IQMS Manufacturing ERP** 

**Impact Technology Solutions** 

H-O-H Water Technology, Inc.

Waste Management of Indiana, L.L.C.

Wells Fargo Equipment Finance

Wells Fargo Financial Leasing

Fletcher Jones Audi Chicago

Munster Development LLC

Prairie Square LLC

#### **United States Trustee for the Northern District of Illinois (and Key Staff Members):**

Adam Brief

Kimberly Bacher

Patricia Brasier

Elizabeth Brusa

Joanne W. Burne

Denise Ann Delaurent

Michelle M. Engel

Sandra George-Booker

Kathryn M. Gleason

Julie Hearn

Pamela Hillman

Andrew Hunt

Benita Jones

Maria Kaplan

Keith E. Manikowski

Candice Manyak

Laura Mccabe

Rita Mierzwa

Jeremiah Nelson

Ha Nguyen

Kathryn O'Kelly

Patricia A. Parker

M. Gretchen Silver

Jeffrey Snell

Roman L. Sukley

Thomas Thornton

Jennifer Toth

Robert J. Wakefield

Connie Jean Warner

Stephen G. Wolfe

Marie Yapan

#### **Bankruptcy Judges for the Northern District of Illinois**

Chief Judge Pamela S. Hollis

Judge Janet S. Baer

Judge Timothy A. Barnes

Judge Donald R. Cassling

Judge Jacqueline P. Cox

Judge Carol A. Doyle

Judge A. Benjamin Goldgar

Judge LaShonda A. Hunt

Judge Thomas M. Lynch

Judge Jack B. Schmetterer

Judge Deborah L. Thorne

## Schedule 2 Relationships with Potential Parties in Interest

Name of Entity Searched	Relationship to Debtor	Nature of Representation
AT&T Mobility	Utility Provider	Cullen and Dykman has in the past, currently, and may in the future, represent AT&T Comm. of New York in matters wholly unrelated to the Debtor or this Chapter 11 Case.
Community Care Net	Unsecured Creditor	Cullen and Dykman has in the past, currently, and may in the future, represent an entity by the name of Community Care Physicians, P.C. in matters wholly unrelated to the Debtor or this Chapter 11 Case. It is unclear whether Community Care Physicians, P.C. is related to Community Care Net.
MSC Industrial Supply	Unsecured Creditor	Cullen and Dykman has in the past, currently, and may in the future, represent MSC Industrial Supply a/k/a MSC Industrial Tool Co. Inc. in matters wholly unrelated to the Debtor or this Chapter 11 Case.
Wells Fargo Equipment Finance	Unsecured Creditor and Contract/Lease Counterparty	Cullen and Dykman has in the past, currently, and may in the future, represent Wells Fargo Bank, NA in matters wholly unrelated to the Debtor or this Chapter 11 Case.
Wells Fargo Financial Leasing	Unsecured Creditor and Contract/Lease Counterparty	Cullen and Dykman has in the past, currently, and may in the future, represent Wells Fargo Bank, NA in matters wholly unrelated to the Debtor or this Chapter 11 Case.